

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 291085

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TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CA

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S DEFENSE SPEECH

1. FOLLOWING ARE SUBMISSIONS FOR THE AMBASSADOR'S DEFENSE  
SPEECH.

2. BEGIN TEXT: SALT. IN NOVEMBER 1974 AT VLADIVOSTOK  
PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY GENERAL BREZHNEV AGREED TO SEEK  
A NEW SALT AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD:

--ESTABLISH AN EQUAL AGGREGATE CEILING OF 2400 STRATEGIC  
DELIVERY SYSTEMS, INCLUDING ICBM LAUNCHERS, SLBM LAUNCHERS  
AND HEAVY BOMBERS;

--PROVIDE FOR AN EQUAL LIMIT OF 1320 MIRVED ICBM AND SLBM  
LAUNCHERS;

--PROVIDE FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS AND POSSIBLE REDUCTIONS  
OF STRATEGIC ARMS.

US AND SOVIET NEGOTIATORS IN GENEVA HAVE FOCUSED ON FACTORS

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PAGE 02 STATE 291085

RELATING TO IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACCORD IN A NEW AGREE-

MENT. SUCH AN AGREEMENT WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE UNCERTAINTIES IN THE FORCE PLANNING OF EITHER SIDE. A SALT

TWO AGREEMENT WOULD CONSTRAIN THE SOVIETS TO WELL BELOW WHAT WE ESTIMATE THEY WOULD DEPLOY IN THE ABSENCE OF AN AGREEMENT, WHILE LEAVING US TACTICAL SYSTEMS AND THE NUCLEAR FORCES OF OUR ALLIES UNAFFECTED.

3. MBFR. THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH STANDS FOR "MUTUAL BALANCED FORCE REDUCTIONS" AND NOT "MUCH BETTER FOR RUSSIA," AS SOME PEOPLE CLAIM, COMMENCED IN 1973. ALTHOUGH NO AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED YET, AND THE TWO SIDES ARE STILL FAR APART, THERE HAVE BEEN SOME ACHIEVEMENTS. FIRST, SOME PERSONS HAVE FEARED, THAT, GIVEN THE WIDE DIVERGENCE OF INTERESTS AMONG THE NATO PARTICIPANTS, THE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD SPLIT THE ALLIANCE ASUNDER. INSTEAD, THE OPPOSITE HAS OCCURRED--MEANINGFUL AND EFFECTIVE CONSULTATIONS AMONG ALL THE PARTICIPANTS HAVE TAKEN PLACE. AT NATO HEADQUARTERS IN BRUSSELS AND IN VIENNA, WHERE THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE LOCATED, THE NATO ALLIES HAVE STRIVEN, WITH REMARKABLE SUCCESS, TO MOLD JOINT POSITIONS THAT TAKE THE INTERESTS OF ALL THE WESTERN PARTICIPANTS INTO ACCOUNT. AND CANADA CAN BE PROUD OF ITS CONSTRUCTIVE AND PERCEPTIVE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THESE ALLIANCE CONSULTATIONS AND THE WESTERN POSITION IN THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS. SECOND, THE VIENNA TALKS HAVE SHED SOME LIGHT ON EACH SIDES' FORCE DEPLOYMENT, AND MILITARY POSTURE IN CENTRAL EUROPE, WHERE THE GREATEST CONCENTRATION OF DIRECT EASTERN AND WESTERN MILITARY FORCE CONFRONTATION EXISTS. ALTHOUGH THE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE NOT YET REACHED AN AGREEMENT TO REDUCE FORCES, THEY HAVE ALREADY HELPED TO ASSUAGE SOME OF SUSPICION AND MISTRUST CAUSED BY THESE LARGE DEPLOYMENTS BY PERMITTING EACH SIDE TO RAISE THOSE ISSUES WHICH IT VIEWS OMINOUS OR THREATENING.

REGARDING THE SPECIFICS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, THE WEST SEEKS TO ESTABLISH APPROXIMATE PARITY OF FORCES IN THE AREA--BY ESTABLISHING A COMMON COLLECTIVE CEILING ON THE MANPOWER OF BOTH SIDES AND BY REDUCING THE DISPARITY IN TANKS. THIS PARITY, WHICH IS A STABLE AND THE MOST EQUITABLE OUTCOME, WOULD BE REACHED THROUGH TWO PHASES. IN THE FIRST UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 291085

PHASE, THE US AND THE SOVIET UNION WOULD REDUCE, AND THE OTHER DIRECT PARTICIPANTS WOULD THEN FOLLOW IN THE SECOND PHASE. SINCE THE EAST CURRENTLY HAS SUCH A LARGE SUPERIORITY IN THE NUMBER OF MEN AND TANKS, IT WOULD NATURALLY HAVE TO REDUCE MORE TO REACH THE COMMON CEILING.

THE EASTERN POSITION IS NATURALLY SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT. IT WANTS EACH STATE TO REDUCE ITS FORCES BY THE SAME PERCENT-

AGE. AT FIRST GLANCE, THIS SOUNDS EQUITABLE, BUT IT WOULD  
MERELY CODIFY THE LARGE DISPARITY ALREADY FAVORING THE EAST  
AND DO NOTHING TO ELIMINATE THIS DISPARITY, WHICH IS A

PRIMARY SOURCE OF TENSION AND INSTABILITY IN CENTRAL  
EUROPE. YOU CAN SEE FROM THIS VERY BRIEF OVERVIEW, THAT  
THE TWO SIDES STILL HAVE FAR TO GO BEFORE ANY SPECIFIC  
AGREEMENT IS REACHED. END TEXT. ROBINSON

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